

ST. MARY'S, WEST BROMPTON.

ADDITIONAL church accommodation being required for the western portion of Brompton, in Middlesex, the incumbent, the Rev. W. J. Irons, B.D., took steps to obtain it; Mr. Gunter, a wealthy and liberal proprietor, of the neighbourhood, generously presented a plot of land for the site of a new building, situated between the Fulham-road and Earles Court-road; and an energetic coadjutor being found in the Rev. Hogarth J. Swale, plans were prepared by Mr. G. Godwin, architect, and being approved of by the Lord Bishop of London and the Church Commissioners, are about to be carried out forthwith, although, as yet, the amount subscribed by the neighbourhood is small.

Our engraving represents the church as it will appear seen from the south-west, when completed. It is a cross church without aisles, with an octagon lantern at the intersection, open to the building, ornamented by kneeling angels on the parapet, and surmounted by a spire with ball flowers at the angles. In the first instance, however, it is proposed to build the nave and south porch only, with the lower part of the tower, which is to be roofed to form the temporary chancel, and a bell cot is therefore provided at the west end. The length of the nave is 86 feet, and the width 33 feet; the temporary chancel about 18 feet square. The height to the ridge is 46 feet. There is a small open gallery of wood for children at the west end (the turret seen in the view contains the stairs to it), with screen beneath; and there is accommodation in the part now to be built for about 500 worshippers.

The style of architecture adopted is the Decorated; the materials, Kentish rag with Bath stone (from the Coombe Down quarries) for the dressings. The walls are 2 feet 3 inches thick, on a concrete bottom. The roof is open, of course, having arched ribs at intervals springing from carved stone corbels: the covering of green slates. All the seats are open, and have ornamental ends.

The following tenders were sent in for the execution of the work:—

Carter and Ellis	£3,297
Glenn	3,251
Haward and Nixon	3,240
J. Barr	3,096

Considering that each builder took out his own quantities, their close approximation is somewhat remarkable.

The estimated additional cost of Caen stone for the dressings in lieu of Bath stone varied from 130*l.* to 100*l.*

The church will occupy the centre of an ornamental enclosure, which will have detached villas, in a crescent form, around it.

POPULAR EDUCATION.

YORKSHIRE MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

At the Hull Athenæum *soirée*, held on the 30th ult., after a meeting of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutions,* some admirable addresses were delivered by the Earl of Carlisle, who presided, the Earl of Yarborough, the Dean of Ripon, Dr. Hodgson, Mr. E. Baines, Mr. Clay, M.P., the Rev. James Aspinall, and others.

Lord Carlisle, in the course of his speech, said, I should think that person a very injudicious friend of mechanics' institutions who should pretend that in your reading rooms and lecture rooms, the means were afforded of turning all your members at once into finished scholars, or ready-made philosophers; or should say that they put it in your power to grasp that eminence which must always be the reward of the midnight toil of the student, or the life-long research of the experimentalist. But if it be the object how to raise the toiling masses of our countrymen above the range of sordid cares and low desires—to interweave the daily drudgery of life with the countless graces of literature, and the glowing web of fancy—to clothe the lessons of duty and of prudence in the most instructive as well as the most inviting forms—to throw open to eyes,

dulled and bleared with the irksome monotony of their daily task-work, the rich resources and the boundless prodigality of nature—to dignify the present with the lessons of the past and the visions of the future—to make the artisans of our crowded workshops and the inmates of our most sequestered villages alive to all that is going on in the big universe around them—and, amidst all the startling and repelling inequalities of our various conditions, to put all upon a level in the equal domain of intellect and of genius; if these objects, and they are neither slight nor trivial—if these objects are worthy of acceptance and approval, I think they can be satisfactorily attained by the means which mechanics' institutions place at our disposal, and it is upon grounds such as these that I urge you to tender to them your encouragement and support.

His lordship mentioned that the London School of Design has consented to give elementary drawing books to all mechanics' institutes which may choose to enter into the proper arrangements for obtaining them, and that drawing is taught in 27 institutes to 682 pupils.

In concluding, the speaker said.—There is hardly a country, hardly a community, which is not disastrously suffering from the evils of the revolutionary wars which are now going on. Look at the condition of Europe at this moment—the Russians on the Danube, the French on the Tiber—why, it would really seem as if the nations of Europe, in some species of wild bacchanal, were seizing the torches of civil discord and foreign war, and throwing them in furious glee from frontier to frontier, river to river, rampart to rampart,—scaring the homes of peace and the haunts of industry with uncouth dissonance and hideous glare. While such are the appalling sights and sounds of which we catch the reflection and the echoes here, let us in Yorkshire,—let us in England,—while we in our accustomed occupations move on in our allotted spheres in the broad and equal light of freedom, let it be our care to light the genial lamp of knowledge, and to transmit it from hand to hand, from institution to institution, from wold to plain, from college to college, from the workshop to the cottage, through every portion of our land, till there shall be no haunt of human revelry unrelieved, till there shall be no abode of ignorance unenlightened, till there shall be no haunt of peaceful industry uncheered.

The Dean of Ripon mentioned three individuals who had recently gone out of the Ripon Institution:—One of them, a common brick-layer, came to seek for instruction and the advantages to be derived from the school in that place. He is now a person of considerable comfort and station in Australia, and he subscribed 5*l.*, said the dean, for our new building, and states that he owes all that he has from having had an opportunity of entering our Mechanics' Institute. Another man came in, whose abilities became quickened, his ambition turned, and his full purpose of mind excited. He is now in most comfortable circumstances in Sweden, and writes continually with a bosom full of gratitude for the benefits he received. Another individual who came into the institution first got education himself; then he became a teacher; afterwards he put himself forward, until he was made master. He is now an engineer in a most important situation, and rising rapidly in the comforts of life. I may just add, continued the rev. gentleman, two other cases, which I think were exceeding good: they were two poor "navvies," who came to the institution, after working fourteen hours in wheeling and labouring at a railway, to learn to read, write, and to cypher. These men, at the conclusion of the railway work, came to the institution, thanked the secretary for the knowledge they had acquired, and for what was of more value to them,—the habits of sobriety, temperance, and retirement, apart from the evil-ways of their companions. They were both going to America, and came to take their leave. One had saved 80*l.*, and the other 100*l.* These are the practical everyday events, which I believe are taking place in the bosoms of our institutions.

And then chimed in Mr. Baines, and said,—It is not poverty that is vulgar. Poverty may be most honourable and most highly to be respected. But it is ignorance that is vulgar,—it is vice that is vulgar. It is the habits of a

low, sensual, and degrading kind, which are vulgar. These are things which, if a man carries with him from a lower station to a higher, will make him vulgar in spite of all the dignity his position may give him. Our object is very unambitious. We have to labour by most homely means, and to labour in a very elementary way upon the very humblest classes, and there it is that we do our good.

NORTHAMPTON CORN-EXCHANGE COMPETITION.

MANY of your readers will doubtless be glad to know how this affair is progressing. Between fifty and sixty very elaborate designs have been sent in, the mere cost of which, wholly irrespective of the labour of each individual competitor, cannot have fallen far short of a thousand pounds, or one-eighth of the actual sum required to erect the building,—so that there is, I think, a strong case for assuming, as a friend of mine did the other day, that, take them on the whole, architects are a very wealthy, public-spirited body of men. Henceforth, Sir, let us hear no more of poor architects, since this is the every-day style in which we respond to advertisements for competitions; and, in fact, you may say, why should we trouble you with our individual complaints of the mode in which competitions are conducted and decided, since it is evident, from our torpidity as a body, that we are extremely well satisfied with the system?

In the present case I understand the committee have selected three designs, one of which they propose to adopt. The rest may be seen, not hung up (for even simplicity's sake), but laid out flat upon tables, one drawing upon another, or, as the case may be, one design upon another; so I leave you, Sir, to judge what must have been the expertness, discernment, and not merely mental but downright manual exertion of these gentlemen, to have thoroughly examined in so short a time (for their meetings are few and far between), this vast and cumbersome stratified surface of architectural drawing.

They'll settle the mystery *sine timore*,
And (as we must all suppose) *sine favore*;
But both things they'll never do, *sine dolore*.

But to be serious (and it is indeed a serious matter): How was it possible thus to do justice to the very many competitors, some of whom I know to be eminent men?

I write to THE BUILDER because this affair is still undecided; and your journal will be again published ere the next meeting of the committee can take place. I do not at all assume that these gentlemen would knowingly act unjustly in this matter; the blame, in fact, lies at our own doors; for architects, and they alone, have the power to remedy this state of things. I must add, that although the Committee have thought themselves competent to select the three best designs out of the fifty or sixty, and have ascertained the names of their respective authors, they are completely at fault as to which one of these few to choose; and they have therefore called in a F.R.S. from London to decide which is the best of all the three. Whoever this gentleman may be, his being called in at all speaks well, I think, for the good intentions of the committee; and I entertain a hope that he will explain to them that if they really desire their project to be benefited by his professional experience and ability, they will at once take his opinion, not merely of these three designs, which, by the by, they will not admit any competitors to inspect, but of the entire fifty or sixty submitted.

By publishing these particulars the adjudication of this competition will become more or less what that of all public architectural competitions ought to be, a public transaction, open to the face of day; and I am convinced that the more they are made so the better it will be, not for architects merely, but for our public buildings, and still more especially the interests of those most mysterious, invisible, and much-abused gentlemen, the architectural competition committees.—I am, &c.,

W. Y.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS AT BERLIN have elected Mr. Donaldson an honorary and foreign member of that body.

* The total number of Mechanics' Institutions, as comprised within the Yorkshire Union, amounts to 84, and the aggregate number of members thus united is 16,790. Within the period of this last year there has been an addition of five institutes and of 1,623 members to the ranks of the institution.